IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claim 22 without prejudice and amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-20 (Cancelled).

21. (Currently Amended) A method of adjusting a pressure of a circulating fluid in a wellbore relative to a pressure in a formation of interest adjacent the wellbore, comprising:

drilling in the formation of interest;

circulating fluid in an annulus between a drill string and a wall of the wellbore; and

adding energy to the circulating fluid in ~~an~~ the annulus ~~between a drill string and a wall of the wellbore~~ at one or more predetermined locations ~~therein~~ above the formation of interest, ~~thereby changing a difference between the pressure of the circulating fluid and the pressure in the formation~~ to increase a force asserted against a bottom surface of the wellbore by the drill string.

22. (Cancelled)

23. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 21, wherein ~~the~~ pressure of the circulating fluid above at least one of the one or more predetermined locations is higher than ~~the~~ pressure of ~~the~~ circulating fluid in communication with the formation of interest.

24. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 21, wherein ~~the~~ pressure of ~~the~~ circulating fluid in communication with the formation is lower than the pressure in the formation of interest.

25. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 21, wherein the formation is a hydrocarbon-bearing formation.

26. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 21, wherein energy is added to the circulating fluid ~~at at least one of the one or more predetermined locations~~ by one or more pump arrangements.

27. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 26, wherein at least one of the one or more pump arrangements is driven by a fluid flowing through the drill string.

28. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 26, wherein at least one of the one or more pump arrangements is electrically powered.

29. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 26, wherein at least one of the one or more pump arrangements is driven by rotation of the drill string.

30. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 21, further comprising flowing at least a portion of the circulating fluid directly from the drill string ~~bore~~ to the annulus ~~above at least one of the one or more predetermined locations~~.

31. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[20]] 21, wherein ~~the~~ pressure of the circulating fluid in communication with the formation is lower than hydrostatic pressure.

32. (Currently Amended) A method of redistributing forces within a wellbore, comprising:

drilling in a formation of interest;

circulating fluid in an annulus between a drill string and a wall of the wellbore; and

adding energy in ~~an upward direction~~ to the circulating fluid in ~~an~~ the annulus ~~between a drill string and a wall of the wellbore~~ at one or more predetermined locations ~~therein~~ above the formation~~, thereby decreasing the weight~~ to decrease a force asserted on the formation of interest by ~~of~~ the circulating fluid in the annulus ~~and increasing the weight of the drill string~~.

33. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 32, wherein the formation is a hydrocarbon-bearing formation.

34. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 32, wherein energy is added to the circulating fluid ~~at at least one of the one or more predetermined locations~~ by one or more pump arrangements.

35. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 34, wherein at least one of the one or more pump arrangements is driven by a fluid flowing through the drill string.

36. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 34, wherein at least one of the one or more pump arrangements is electrically powered.

37. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 34, wherein at least one of the one or more pump arrangements is driven by rotation of [[a]] the drill string.

38. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 32, further comprising flowing at least a portion of the circulating fluid directly from the drill string ~~bore~~ to the annulus ~~above at least one of the one or more predetermined locations~~.

39. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for redistributing forces within a wellbore, comprising:

~~a drill bit mounted on~~ a ~~tubular~~ drill string for extending through a wellbore;

a drill bit mounted on the drill string for ~~and~~ drilling through a formation containing fluid;

a pump ~~means~~ for circulating drilling fluid ~~down~~ through the drill string to exit the drill string at or adjacent the drill bit and enter an annulus between the drill string and a wall of the wellbore, and then continuously ~~upwards~~ through the annulus; and

a fluid motive assembly ~~means~~ for adding energy to the drilling fluid in the annulus above the formation ~~such that the weight of the circulating fluid in the annulus~~

~~asserted on the formation is decreased and the weight of a drill string is increased~~ to increase a force asserted against a bottom surface of the wellbore by the drill string.

40. (Currently Amended) The ~~method~~ apparatus of claim 39, wherein the formation is a hydrocarbon-bearing formation.

41. (New) A method of adjusting pressure of a circulating fluid in a wellbore, comprising:

pumping a fluid into an inner diameter of a drill string and out proximate an end of the drill string;

flowing the fluid in an annulus between an outer diameter of the drill string and a wall of the wellbore; and

extracting energy from the fluid in the drill string and transferring at least a portion of the energy through a pressure-bearing boundary of the drill string to the fluid flowing in the annulus.

42. (New) The method of claim 41, wherein extracting energy from the fluid in the drill string and transferring at least a portion of the energy through a pressure-bearing boundary of the drill string to the fluid flowing in the annulus increases a force of the drill string asserted against a bottom surface of the wellbore.

43. (New) The method of claim 41, wherein extracting energy from the fluid in the drill string and transferring at least a portion of the energy through a pressure-bearing boundary of the drill string to the fluid flowing in the annulus decreases a force asserted on the formation of interest by the circulating fluid in the annulus.